

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A system for inputting speech comprising:

an echo canceller section for subtracting a pseudo echo signal generated by an adaptive filter based on a speech signal inputted to a first input terminal from a speech signal for sending inputted to a second input terminal to thereby remove echo components contained in said speech signal for sending;

a main microphone for mainly receiving sound from an objective sound source;

a reference microphone disposed a predetermined distance apart from the main microphone for mainly receiving sounds from other than said objective sound source; and

an audio delay section for giving a predetermine delay to said speech signal for sending received from said main microphone;

wherein the speech signal from said reference microphone is inputted to the first input terminal of said echo canceller section, while said speech signal for sending which is from said main microphone and to which said delay has been given in said audio delay section is inputted to the second input terminal of said echo canceller section; and

wherein the delay given at said audio delay section is adjusted within a range of delay time of echo components which are removed by the echo canceller section.

2. (Original) A system for inputting speech comprising:

an echo canceller section for subtracting a pseudo echo signal generated by an adaptive filter based on a speech signal inputted to a first input terminal from a speech signal for sending inputted to a second input terminal to thereby remove echo components contained in the speech signal for sending;

a main microphone for mainly receiving sound from an objective sound source;

a reference microphone disposed a predetermined distance apart from said main microphone for mainly receiving sounds from other than said objective sound source;

an audio delay section for giving a predetermine delay to said speech signal for sending received from the main microphone;

an interface for receiving a reception signal from an external system and for sending said speech signal for sending which has been processed by said echo canceller section to the external system; and

a speaker for outputting the reception signal obtained through said interface as an audio sound;

wherein the speech signal from said reference microphone is inputted to the first input terminal of said echo canceller section, while said speech signal for sending which is from said main microphone and to which said delay has been given in said audio delay section is inputted to the second input terminal of said echo canceller section; and

wherein the delay given at said audio delay section is adjusted within a range of delay time of echo components which are removed by said echo canceller section.

3. (Original) A system for inputting speech according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each of said main microphone and said reference microphone is constructed so as to collect sounds in a desired manner with the aid of a respective shielding member.

4. (Original) A system for inputting speech according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each of said main microphone and said reference microphone is constructed so as to collect sounds in a desired manner by its directivity.

5. (Original) A system for inputting speech according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein each of said main microphone and said reference microphone is constructed so as to collect sounds in a desired manner by means of a combination of its directivity and a shielding member.

6. (Original) A radio receiver for receiving broadcasted or transmitted radio waves and detecting therefrom a low-frequency signal comprising:

a receiving section for receiving the broadcasted or transmitted radio waves;

a detection/demodulation section for subjecting a high-frequency signal generated in response to the reception at said receiving section to a detection operation to produce the low-frequency signal;

a noise canceling means for reducing noise components of the low-frequency signal produced by said detection/demodulation section; and

a control section for monitoring an electric-field strength of the received radio waves and controlling based thereon the operation of said noise canceling means;

wherein said control section brings said noise canceling means into an operating state when the electric-field strength of the received radio waves is low.

7. (Original) A radio receiver according to claim 6, wherein an audio muting section for blocking an output of said low-frequency signal is further provided, and wherein said control section brings said noise canceling means into the operating state when said electric-field strength reaches a first level and blocks the output of said low-frequency signal by said audio muting section when said electric-field strength reaches a second level which is lower than said first level.

8. (Original) A radio receiver according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein said noise canceling means is capable of switching an amount of reduction of noise in a plurality of steps, and wherein said control section controls the switching in such a manner that the amount of reduction of noise is increased as the electric-field strength of the received radio wave becomes lower.

9. (Currently Amended) A radio receiver according to [any one of claims 6 to 8] claim 6 or 7, wherein said noise canceling means is a bandpass filter

for allowing the low-frequency signal within a predetermined frequency band to pass.

10. (Currently Amended) A radio receiver according to [any one of claims 6 to 8] claim 6 or 7, wherein said bandpass filter is capable of switching its frequency band for passing said low-frequency signal therethrough in a plurality of steps, and wherein said control section causes the switching to be performed such that said frequency band is made narrower as the electric-field strength of the received radio waves decreases.

11. (Currently Amended) A communication system for carrying out communication with or without wire, wherein a system for inputting speech according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 or 2 is used for a speech input in at least one of those ends of said communication system between which communication is carried out.

12. (Currently Amended) A communication system for carrying out communication wirelessly, wherein a system for inputting speech according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 or 2 is used for a speech input in at least one of those ends of the communication system between which communication is carried out,

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and wherein a radio receiver according to any one of claims 6 to 10 is used in at least one of those end of the communication system between which communication is carried out.